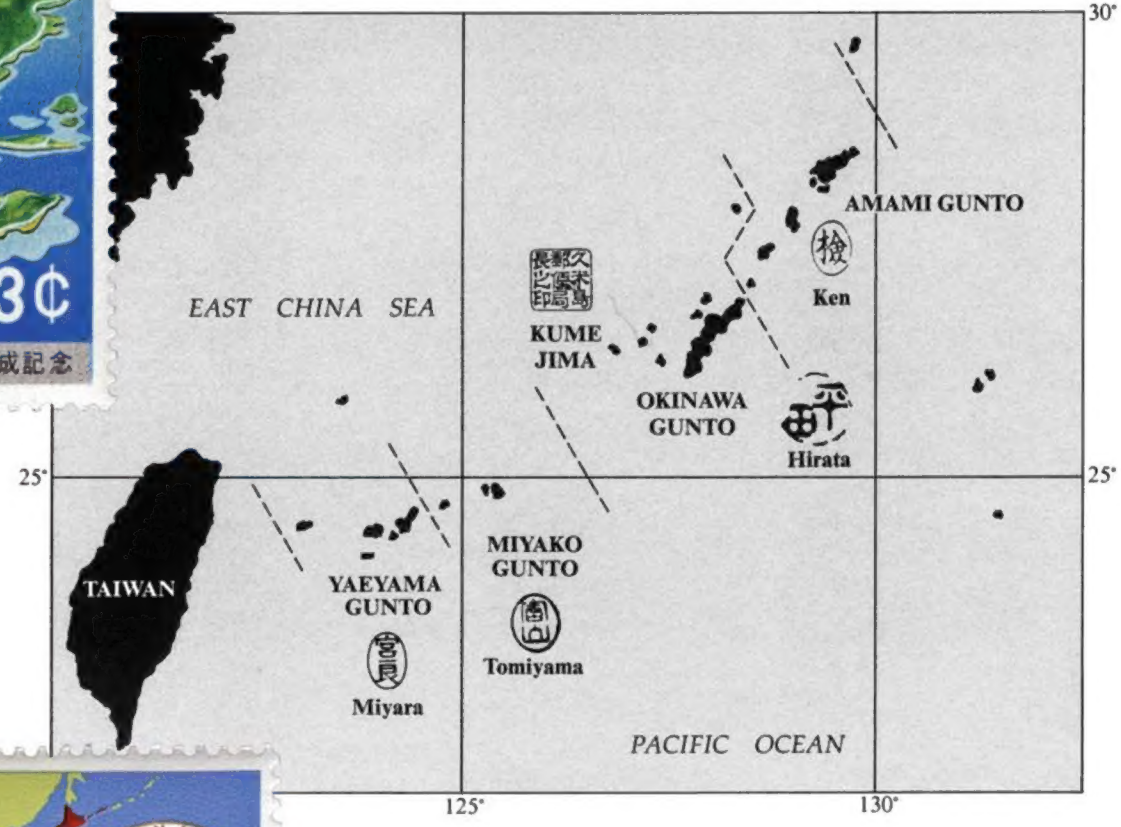
Ryukyu Islands

The Ryukyu Islands, also known as the Nansei Islands, are a chain of islands in the western Pacific, on the eastern limit of the East China Sea and to the southwest of the island of Kyūshū in Japan. From about 1829 until the mid 20th century, they were alternately called Luchu, Loochoo, or Lewchew, in an attempt to reproduce the Mandarin pronunciation Liuqiu. They stretch southwest from the Japanese island of Kyūshū to within 120 kilometres (75 mi) of the island of Taiwan.



RYUKYU ISLANDS

PROVISIONAL ISSUES

Miyako District

Stamps of Japan Handstamped
in Vermilion or Red
1946-47

Scott 3X1

Scott 3X2

2S
VERMILION
Scott 3X2a

Scott 3X4

5S
BROWN LAKE
Scott 3X5

Same as
Scott 3X15
10S
RED ORANGE
(Imperforate)
Scott 3X9

Scott 3X13

Scott 3X14

Scott 3X15

Same as
Scott 3X15
20S
ULTRAMARINE
(Imperforate)
Scott 3X16

(Sewing Machine
Perforation)
Scott 3X16

Same as
Scott 3X6
40S
DULL VIOLET
Scott 3X19

Scott 3X20

Scott 3X22

Scott 3X23

Scott 3X24

RYUKYU ISLANDS

PROVISIONAL ISSUES

Miyako District

Stamps of Japan Handstamped
in Vermilion or Red
1946-47
Handstamp Surcharged in Black
with Two Japanese Characters

Same as
Scott 3X2
1 Y on 2 S
CRIMSON
Scott 3X26

Same as
Scott 3X27
1 Y on 3 S
BROWN
Scott 3X27

Same as
Scott 3X2
2 Y on 2 S
CRIMSON
Scott 3X28

Same as
Scott 3X2a
2 Y on 2 S
VERMILION
Scott 3X28a

Same as
Scott 3X4
5 Y on 5 S
BROWN LAKE
Scott 3X30

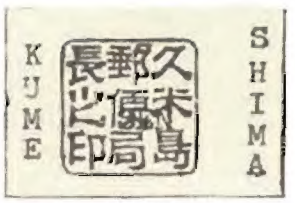
Same as
Scott 3X8
10 Y on 10 S
CRIMSON &
DULL ROSE
Scott 3X31

RYUKYU ISLANDS

PROVISIONAL ISSUES

Kume

1945



Scott 1X1

Okinawa District

Stamps of Japan
Handstamped in Black
1947

Same as
Scott 3X15
10 S
RED ORANGE
Scott 4X1

Same as
Scott 3X15
20 S
ULTRAMARINE
Scott 4X2

Same as
Scott 3X22
50 S
DARK BROWN
Scott 4X3

Same as
Scott 3X24
1 Y
ULTRAMARINE
Scott 4X4

Scott 4X5

Yaeyama District

Stamps of Japan
Handstamped in Black
1948

Same as
Scott 3X4
4 S
DARK GREEN
Scott 5X1

Same as
Scott 3X4
5 S
BROWN LAKE
Scott 5X2

Same as
Scott 3X4
7 S
ORANGE
VERMILION
Scott 5X3

Same as
Scott 3X8
10 S
CRIMSON &
DULL ROSE
Scott 5X4

Scott 5X6

Same as
Scott 3X22
50 S
DARK BROWN
(Imperforate)
Scott 5X9

Scott 5X10

RYUKYU ISLANDS

Watermarked Curved Wavy Lines

1948

First Printing

1949

Second Printing

Unwatermarked

1950

RYUKYU ISLANDS

UNDER U. S. CIVIL ADMINISTRATION

琉球郵便

CONSTANT MINOR VARIETIES

FROM FULL SHEET OF 50 SEN VALUE

WHITE SKY

CENTER STAMP

CENTER STAMP
WHITE SKY VARIETY

INSCRIPTION

BLOCK

10 Yen Surcharge

January 1, 1952
First printing

200,000 printed

Type A

Type B

June 5, 1952
Second printing

200,000 printed

Type A

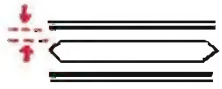
Type B

August 12, 1952
Third printing

40,000 printed

Characteristics of the three printings

first printing



second printing
third printing

Type A

first printing
second printing

third printing

Type B

100 Yen Surcharge

June 16, 1952

10,000 printed

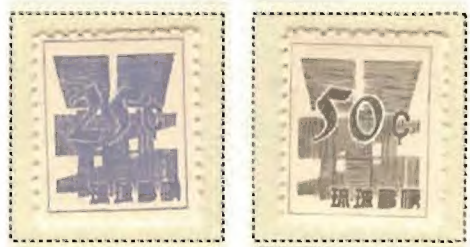
RYUKYU ISLANDS

1953-56

RYUKYU ISLANDS

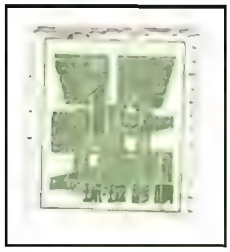
1956-58

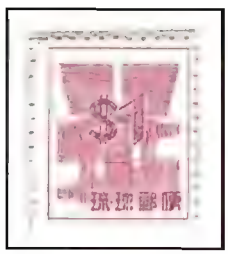
1961



1958 Provisional Definitive Issue
Conversion to U.S. Dollar Currency

September 16, 1958





Issued without gum

Designs by Shin Isogawa and Masayoshi Adaniya

Quantities printed:

1/2	cent	1,000,000
1	cents	1,000,000
2	cents	1,000,000
3	cents	3,000,000
4	cents	1,000,000
5	cents	1,000,000
10	cents	1,000,000
25	cents	500,000
50	cents	250,000
1.00	dollar	250,000

1958 Provisional Definitive Issue
Conversion to U.S. Dollar Currency

April 20, 1961

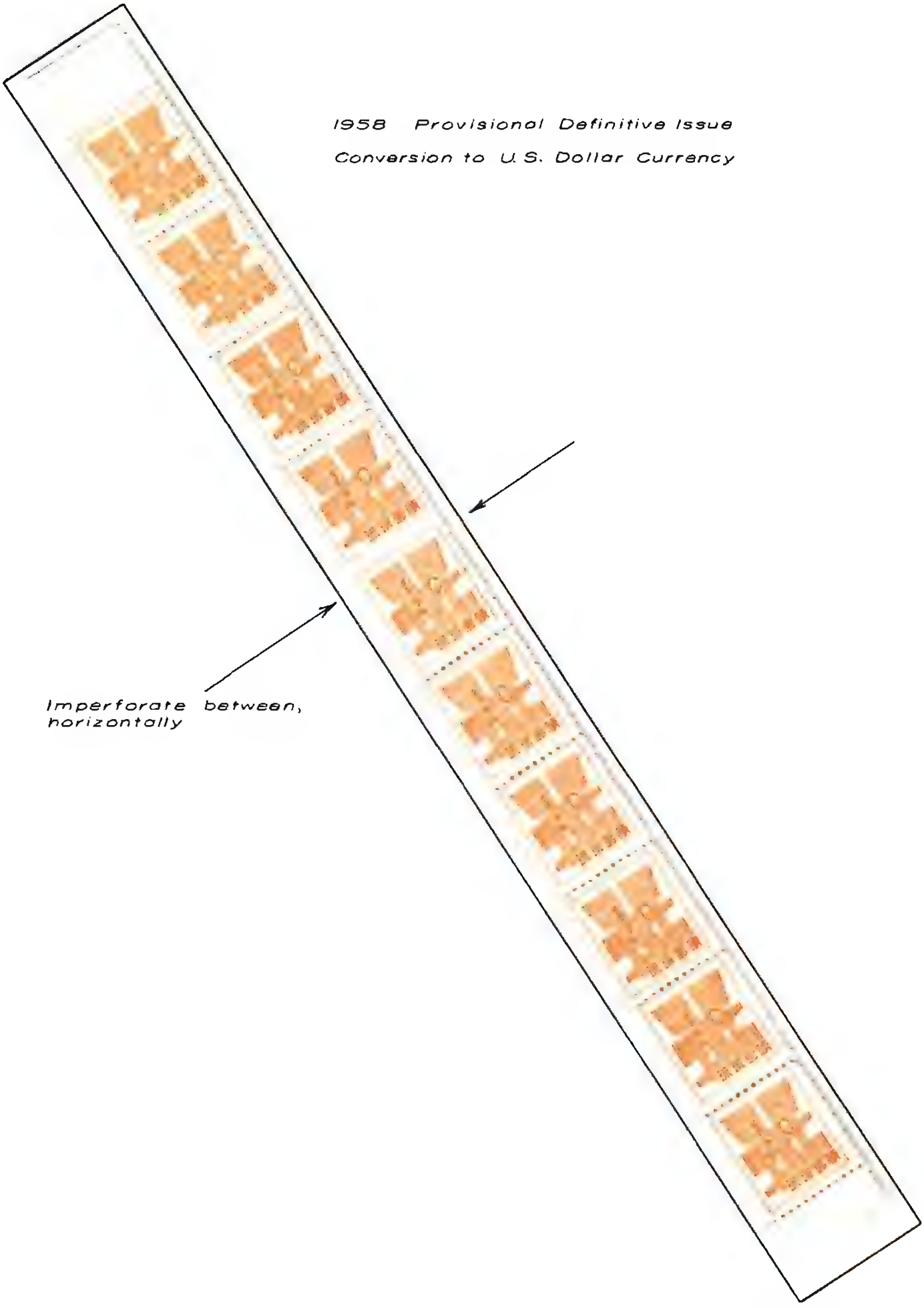
Second printings issued with gum

25 cents	*200,000 printed*
50 cents	*100,000 printed*

守禮門 復元記念

1958 Provisional Definitive Issue

Conversion to U.S. Dollar Currency



Imperforate between, horizontally

RYUKYU ISLANDS

1959

1960-61

1959-60

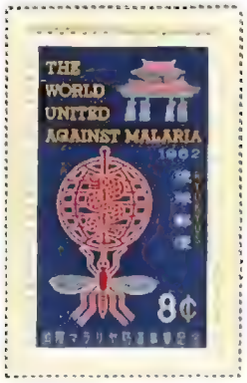
RYUKYU ISLANDS

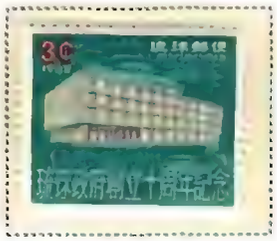
1960-64

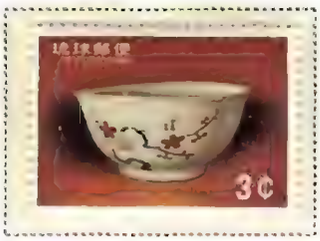
1961

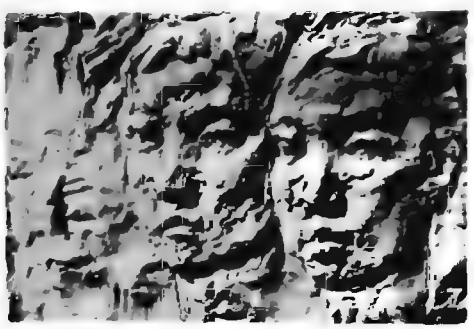
RYUKYU ISLANDS

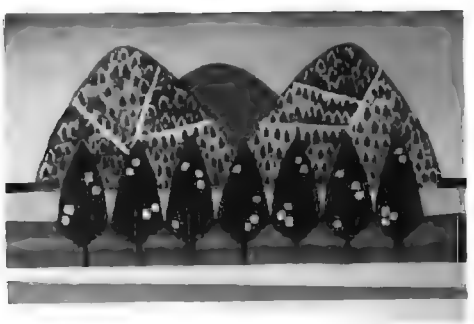
1962-63





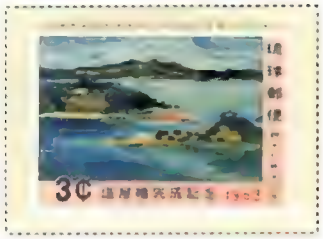


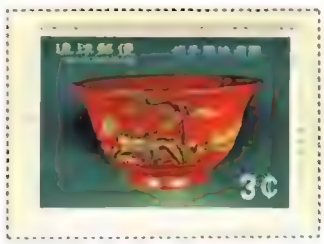


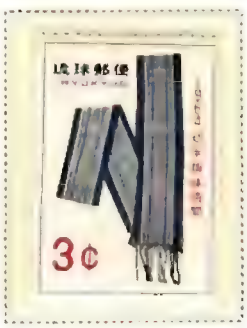


RYUKYU ISLANDS

1963-64







Iriomote Government Park Essay

October 9, 1971

The stamp was proposed to commemorat the proposed Iriomote Government Park, but when the park authorization was rejected, the stamp was not issued.

In October 1971 the stamps were used as "validating labels" on currency conversion forms (dollars to yen).

RYUKYU ISLANDS

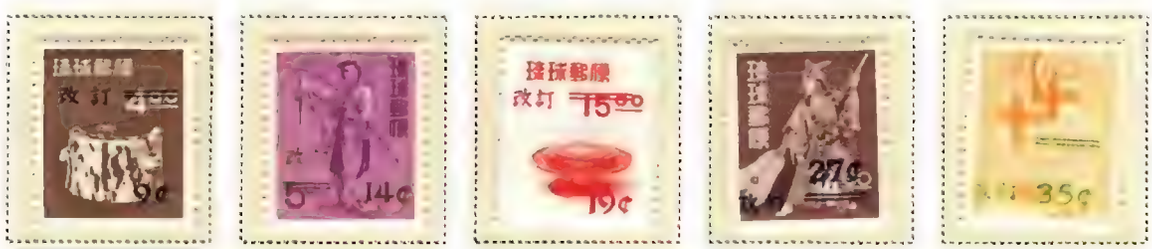
AIR POST STAMPS

1950

1951-54

1957

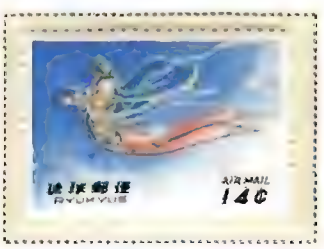
1960



RYUKYU ISLANDS

AIR POST STAMPS

1959-63



SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMP

1950

RYUKYU ISLANDS

AIR LETTER SHEETS

1952-55

RYUKYU ISLANDS

AIR LETTER SHEETS

1958-59

Scott UC3

RYUKYU ISLANDS

POSTAL CARDS

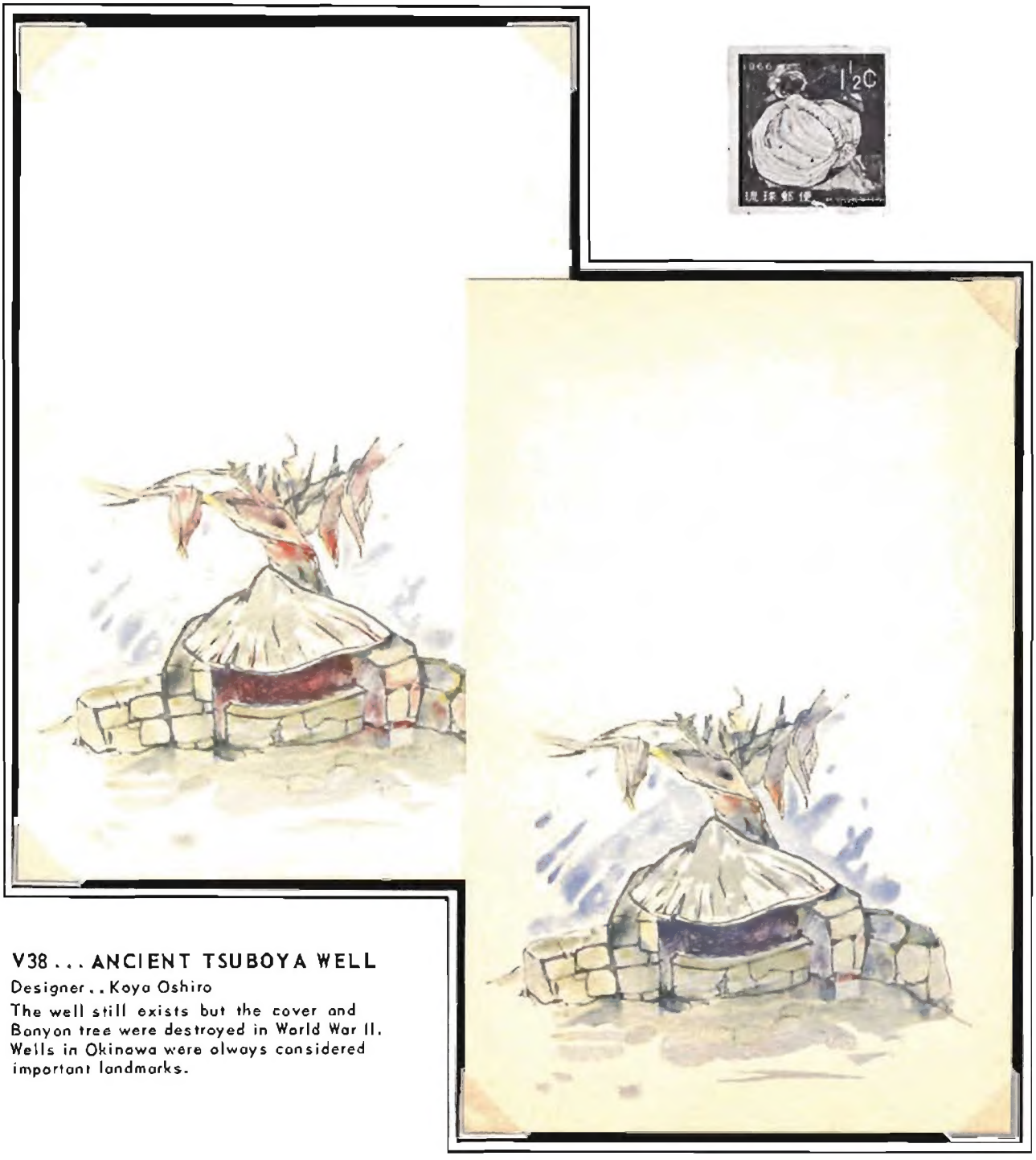
1953-57

RYUKYU ISLANDS
UNDER U.S. ADMINISTRATION

琉球郵便

POSTAL STATIONERY

SHADE VARIETIES OF THE 1966 SUMMER GREETING CARD



V38 . . . ANCIENT TSUBOYA WELL

Designer . . Koya Oshiro

The well still exists but the cover and Banyon tree were destroyed in World War II. Wells in Okinawa were always considered important landmarks.

Thank you for taking a "tour" of the *The Ryukyu Islands* with us. These album pages have been prepared with items from the APS Reference Collection.

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